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# Panel Votes to Subpoena Embassy Security Data

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A House subcommittee voted unanimously yesterday to subpoena State Department documents and cables concerning security problems at the U.S. embassy in Moscow after learning that some materials the committee had requested were deliberately withheld.

The vote came after Rep. Daniel A. Mica (D-Fla.), chairman of the Foreign Affairs subcommittee on international operations, charged that the department had withdrawn documents from two thick binders of information on embassy security provided to the panel. He said the panel discovered that documents were missing because indexes and tabs in each binder referred to sections that were empty.

"They have given us documents, folders [and] booklets with information that has been pulled out," Mica said. "In their haste to pull the information out at the State Department, they forgot to erase the index."

"I'm just shocked and chagrined that they would act in this way when they indicated they would cooperate," he said.

Later, Mica said the cables withheld were from the ambassador marked for "distribution only" within the State Department as well as information concerning embassy personnel transfers. "I've never had a problem like this before," he said.

Mica said the subcommittee had asked for about 4,000 cables dealing with various security problems sent to the State Department between 1981 and yesterday. In addition, the panel has asked for memorandums and notes from embassy meetings on security problems during the same period.

Mica said the subcommittee planned to Secretary of State George P. Shultz today ordering the department to hand over all the information taken out of the two binders plus "certain documents" it would specify.

Mica warned that if the department did not hand over all the information, including the documents and cables withdrawn from the two binders, he would initiate an investigation into a possible "cover-up."

He charged the State Department had withdrawn the information from the binders because "it was damning to one or more individuals" responsible for the security problems plaguing both the current embassy and the new, unfinished chancery, which is said to contain a "honeycomb" of listening devices implanted by the Soviets.

Mica did not say which individuals the department might be seeking to protect. But other congressional sources said they include former U.S. ambassador Arthur A. Hartman, who returned in February after serving five years in Moscow.

The subcommittee's ranking Republican, Rep. Olympia J. Snowe (Maine), said she and Mica had been assured only last week by Deputy Secretary of State John C. Whitehead that the subcommittee would get "all the information" it was requesting. Instead, she said, the department had set up a special task force to decide which information to provide and which to withhold.

Later, State Department spokesman Charles E. Redman confirmed that "some highly classified cables" had not been provided to Mica's subcommittee but that the department was ready to "work out" the problem with the panel.

"We've been willing to talk about them," he said.

Redman said the task force had been established to review "thousands of documents" related to Moscow embassy security to determine "which are relevant" to the subcommittee's request. The first cables were sent Friday to Capitol Hill and "substantial numbers of documents" already have been provided to the subcommittee, he said.

Mica said the State Department, in a last-minute bid to head off the subpoena, had sent "five pounds" of classified and other documents 20 minutes before the subcommittee met yesterday. He said it "appears, and we're certain in some instances," that the information the subcommittee wanted was not included in the new material.

The chairman displayed during the brief subcommittee meeting a carton containing a pile of cables and documents, some of which contained classified information.